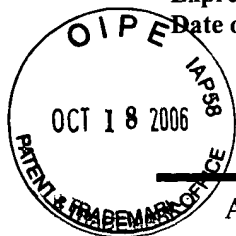


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Date of Deposit: October 18, 2006

Attorney Docket No. 27353-501 UTIL



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANTS :	Blackburn, <i>et al.</i>	CONFIRMATION NUMBER :	4288
SERIAL NUMBER :	09/967,321	EXAMINER :	Lam, Ann Y.
FILING DATE :	October 1, 2001	ART UNIT :	1641
FOR :	Methods		

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Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION
Expedited Action under 37 C.F.R. §1.116

In response to the final Office Action mailed on April 18, 2006 in the above-identified application, Applicants respectfully request entry and consideration of this Response under 37 C.F.R. §1.116. A petition for a three month extension of time (up to and including October 18, 2006) and the necessary fee for a small entity are enclosed. If any additional fees are required or if any funds are due, the USPTO is authorized to charge or credit Deposit Account Number: **50-0311**, Customer Number: **35437**, Reference Number: **27353-501 UTIL**.

A Notice of Appeal under 37 C.F.R. §1.191 accompanies this Response.

Amendments to the claims begin on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 7 of this paper.